

NIGHTWISH RELOADED

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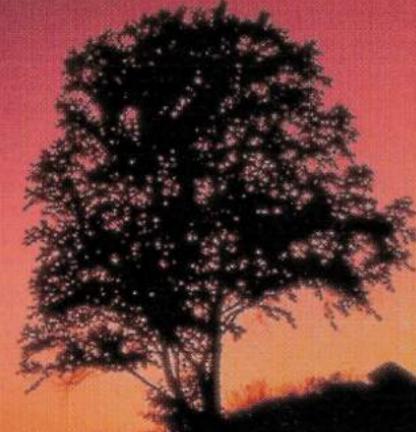
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IN THE course of the last decade, Finnish chart-toppers Nightwish have acquired a major name on the international hard rock scene, picking up gold & platinum awards and playing sold-out shows around the world... and this is where it all started!

The brainchild of keyboard player Tuomas Holopainen, a man with an essentially other-worldly view and the musical/lyrical skill to communicate that vision, the Nightwish sound was pretty much in place from day one – a winning combination of strong melodies, soaring vocals plus a very real sense of wonder.

'Angels Fall First' (1997): the sound of a career about to explode.

Nightwish



Angels Fall First

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EMPPU VUORINEN: electric, acoustic and bass guitar

JUKKA NEVALAINEN: drums & percussion

TUOMAS HOLOPAINEN: synths, vocals

TARJA TURUNEN: vocals



~ Angels Fall First ~

"What was supposed to be no more than a demo recording ended up becoming our debut album back in '97.

"Reflecting on those times now, I hear a cute little effort full of youthful ambition and an ignorance of what is to come. 'Elvenpath' still retains its childish charm, and 'Angels Fall First' has one of the best lyrics in any of our songs.

"Roots can always be traced back to a particular place, and innocence - which is essentially the spirit of this album - can never be found again."

Tuomas Holopainen



Elvenpath

Hearing music from the deepest forest
Songs as a seduction of sirens
The elf-folk is calling me

Tapio, Bearking, Ruler of the forest
Mielikki, Bluecloak, Healer of the ill and sad
Open the gate and let me follow the uncarven path

The way to the lands
Where as a hero I stand
The path where Beauty met the Beast
Elvenpath
It's the honesty of these worlds
Ruled by magic and mighty swords
That makes my soul long for the past
Elvenpath

The moonwitch took me for a ride on a broomstick
Introduced me to her old friend Home Gnome
Told me to keep the sauna warm for him

At the grove I met the rest—the folk of my fantasies
Bilbo, Sparhawk, goblins and pixies,
Snowman, Willow, trolls and the seven dwarfs
The path goes forever on

(Repeat chorus)

As I return to my room
And as sleep takes me by my hand
Madrigals from the woods
Carry me to neverland
In this spellbound night
The world's an elvish sight

Beauty And The Beast

Remember the first dance we shared?
Recall the night you melted my ugliness away?
The night you left with a kiss so kind
Only a scent of beauty left behind

Ah, dear friend I remember the night
The moon and the dreams we shared
Your trembling paw in my hand
Dreaming of that northern land
Touching me with a kiss of a beast

I know my dreams are made of you
Of you and only for you
Your ocean pulls me under
Your voice tears me asunder
Love me before the last petal falls

As a world without a glance
Of the ocean's fair expanse
Such the world would be
If no love did flow in thee
But as my heart is occupied
Your love to me now has to die
Forgive me, I need more than you can offer me

Didn't you read the tale
Where happily ever after was to kiss a frog?
Don't you know this tale
In which all I ever wanted I'll never have
For who could ever learn to love a beast?

However cold the wind and rain
I'll be there to ease up your pain
However cruel the mirrors of sin
Remember, beauty is found within

...Forever shall the wolf in me desire the sheep in you...

The Carpenter

Who are you?
Man condemned to shine a salvation
throughout the centuries

Why?
Was the wine of the grail
too sour for man to drink

The carpenter
carved his anchor
on the dying souls of mankind
On the tomb of this unknown soldier
lay the tools of the one
who for us had died
Tools of the carpenter

The one they lick
The same old sick
dream of their precious saviour

Kiss them deep and
make them weep
over promises of eternal peace

(Repeat chorus)

I hear you
through the symphonic voices of nature
- the purity I could never doubt
They tell me to lie on the grass
and observe my saviour
The one crucified to the chirping of birds

(Repeat chorus)

Astral Romance

A nocturnal concerto
candlelight whispers me where to go
Hymn of gathering stars as my guide
whilst I wander on this path of the night

Embroidery of the stars
undress my feelings for this earth
Send me your salva to heal my scars
and let this nakedness be my birth

Macrocosm poured its powers on me
And the hopes of this world I now must leave
The nightwish I sent you centuries ago
has been heard by those
who dwelled in a woe

The distance of our bridal bed
Await for me to be dead
Dust of the galaxies take my hand
Lead me to my beloved's land

Departed by the guillotine of death
I received a letter from the depth
The dream of my lover it carried inside

Caressed by the sharpest knife
I asked you to be my wife
Rays of the setting sun
were my tears wept upon promises undone

Come to me, make me believe
to you and your love again

Above the universe
Beneath the Great Eye
I shall desire you forevermore



A Return To The Sea

A star falls down from the darkened sky
Where new worlds born and die
Kingdom Animalia watches its approaching glow
What it means is soon to be known

Beneath the lovely birch honeymakers
build their nest in peace
On the savannah a lion licks a wounded gun
To honour this moment even the heavens cease
Giant spiders learn how to swim
With whales they form a united kin

Snakes say hello to the rats on the ground
In the meadows play merrily the fox and the hound

Trilobite and Anymalocharis
The prey and the hunter
Survival of the fittest
Fall of Man

Seadrops foam all empty human skulls
Those on the shores of Atlantis
Darwin's resurrection is witnessed
By turtles he used to play with
Healed and happy she oversees
The Mother
The tyrant's return to the sea

Nightwish



Angels Fall First

An angelface smiles to me
under a headline of tragedy
That smile used to give me warmth
Farewell – no words to say
beside the cross on your grave
and those forever burning candles

NEEDED ELSEWHERE
to remind us of the shortness of our time
Tears laid for them
Tears of love, tears of fear
Bury my dreams. Dig up my sorrows
Oh, Lord why
the angels fall first

Not relieved by thoughts of Shangri-La
Nor enlightened by lessons of Christ
I'll never understand the meaning of the right
Ignorance lead me into the light

(Repeat chorus)

Sing me a song
of your beauty
of your kingdom
Let the melodies of your harps
caress those whom we still need

Yesterday we shook hands
My friend
Today a moonbeam lightens my path
My guardian

Tutankhamen

As the sun sets beyond the pyramids
To greet me with its rays
I place my hand on my forehead
To see your chariots' flames
Watch me kneel before you
Hear the cats meowing in the temple
They yearn the milk you cascaded
As I yearn that promised treasure

TREASURE OF
TUTANKHAMEN
I am the one it is
Take me with you
Through the stargate
To the valley of the kings

Sacrifice me
Tutankhamen
And let me be your queen
Take me
Tonight and always
We'll breed to fill all earth

Three millenniums it took me to guard your rest
Your slumber in mighty Phoenix's nest
But tonight the darkness in the tomb has perished
For Carter has come to free my beloved

(Repeat chorus)

Nymphomaniac Fantasia

The scent of a woman was not mine...

Welcome home, darling, did you miss me?
Wish to dwell in dear love?

Touch my milklike skin. Feel the ocean
Lick my deepest. Hear the starry choir

Rip off this lace that keeps me imprisoned
But beware the enchantment for my eroticism is your oblivion

Old love lies deep, you said
Deeper shall be the wound between your legs

Know Why The Nightingale Sings

What does the free fall feel like?
Asks the boy with a spark in his eye
Know why the nightingale sings?
Is the answer to everything

Taking a step to a world unbound
Spinning my fantasies all around
Freed from the gravitational leash
I swear the heaven's in my reach

Dancing with the spirit of the air
In this ocean so open and fair
Making love to the gods above
On my maiden voyage so bold

Landing safely to the blue lagoon
Don't know if this is the earth or the moon
Joy of living is no more a mask. Migrating with the geese
My soul has finally found peace
Doesn't matter that man has no wings
As long as hear the nightingale sing...

Lappi (Lapland)

1 ~ Erämaajärvi

Kautta erämaajärven
matkaa kulkuri yksinäinen
Näkee lammella joutsenparven
vapauttaan itkevän

Kaipuu menneisyyden
kürii ilmassa huutoina kotien
Ikijärveltä turvatulta
käy matka vuorten taa

2 ~ Witchdrums

3 ~ This Moment Is Eternity

Day possesses no key here
where moon sheds the cold twilight
This moment is eternity

Land of beauty,
cold and cruel
Fjeld chants echoing,
reflecting the melancholy...

Trust the wind
Trust the fires
Call for the hermit of the night

Land of raven and bear
Land of eagle and wolverine

Dismal are the mirrors of a wolf

4 ~ Etiäinen

THE BEGINNING. IN FAIRY TALE TERMS, THE 'ONCE UPON A TIME' RELEASE...

THE YEAR was 1997, and Tuomas Holopainen – the keyboard player with Nattvindens Grat – had a tough decision to make. One that was driving him to distraction. His band was sharing a tour bus with Spinefarm Records act Babylon Whores, whose rhythm guitarist, Ewo Pohjola, was also doing A&R work for the label. In this capacity, Ewo had taken a big bag of demos on the road with him – the vast majority of which were flying unceremoniously out of the tour bus window!

Tuomas had put together a demo tape himself – the first fruits of a new project he'd been working on under the banner of Nightwish. He was keen to play these recordings to Ewo, but was naturally concerned that his hard work might end up being crushed under the wheels of a following juggernaut. Finally, after many hours pacing up and down (as much as you can on a tour bus, anyway), he decided to put himself on the line. The Nightwish demo was duly handed over, and the rest – as they say – is hard rock history.

Actually, that's not quite right. In its very earliest incarnation, Nightwish was more of an acoustic project, and it was this fact, ironically, that made its survival all the more likely. Having had their collective ears beaten into bloody pulp by a seemingly endless stream of death metal demos, all of them big on posturing but short on ideas (prime highway fodder, in fact), Ewo and his impromptu listening panel were ready for something different – something with its own sense of identity and a singer who wasn't gargling nails.

During the course of that tour, the Nightwish tape became a firm in-transit fave, with 'The Carpenter' in particular never failing to draw praise plus a respectful raising of glass or bottle. As a result, Ewo suggested that Nightwish make an album for Spinefarm – an offer that

was swiftly and gratefully accepted, even though the contributors to the project were generally tied up in other areas: national service in terms of Tuomas and the guys and operatic commitments in terms of Tarja.

Despite this, however, plus an untimely injury to drummer Jukka, the first Nightwish outing was released in Finland later the same year; a limited edition pressing of just 500 copies, with seven tracks included. For the next pressing, a further selection of songs was added, and by 2001 (buoyed up by a supportive local media) the album had reached gold status. Inevitably, it was tour bus stalwart 'The Carpenter' that had been given the nod as first single/video – a track that remained on the charts for a full 19 weeks, peaking at No. 5.

'Surely there can't be another band in the world as exotic as this?' wrote local paper *Karjalainen*, and there was no doubt that 'Angels Fall First' – recorded at the previously untried Huvikeskus Studio in Kitee – had put Nightwish on the map. For the follow-up, 'Oceanborn', things were to develop in a *seriously* big way, but there was a naivety and a charm to this debut (reflected in Tuomas including his home address on the original packaging!) that instantly made a connection, both in Finland and beyond.

With TH helping out on vocals and guitarist Emppu filling in on bass, 'Angels...' saw Nightwish laying the foundations for what was soon to become a signature sound, and by the Spring of 1998 they were out on the road (joined by bassist Sampsa Hirvonen) nervously adding the visual side to their fast unfolding story.

There could be no turning back now.

Dante Bonutto
Spinefarm Records UK

"Bury my dreams.
Dig up my sorrows
Oh, Lord why
the angels fall first"



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